

NP&EDC
APPROVED Minutes (adopted 3/20/23)
Monday, December 19, 2022 at 5pm

To view a recording of the meeting, use the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBDZEJSbK5A>

Call to Order:

Chair Longacre called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Establishment of a Quorum:

In Attendance:

Commission:

Mary Longacre
Seth Engelbourg
Kristie Ferrantella
Dave Iverson (5:06pm)
Dawn Hill Holdgate
Wendy Hudson
Nat Lowell
Barry Rector
Joseph Topham
John Trudel (5:07pm)

Staff:

Andrew Vorce, Director of Planning
Patrick Reed, Transportation Program Manager
Leslie Snell, Deputy Director of Planning
Megan Trudel, Land Use Specialist
Raissah Koume, Regional Planning Coordinator, MassDOT

Approval of Agenda:

Barry Rector moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kristie Ferrantella and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes

- **October 24, 2022**
- **November 21, 2022**

Barry Rector moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022 and November 21, 2022 NP&EDC meetings. The motion was duly seconded by Nat Lowell and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Action/Discussion Items:

Presentation – Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, Weston & Sampson

Director Vorce provided the Commission with an overview on process, noting that it's a requirement of the State and are good for seven years and once they are accepted there are funding opportunities that become available. That the process should be finalized in the coming months.

Brandon Kunkel, from Weston & Sampson presented the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The State requires that communities complete a plan in order to be eligible for funding the plan includes extensive due diligence and then a public process where input and feedback is required to determine action items for the next seven years.

John Trudel asked whether there is CPC involvement since the CPC allocates a minimum of 30% of funding to open space. Mr. Kunkel explained that often times they may be intertwined, but not in every case, for Nantucket it's more about asking the State for funding to support projects.

Mr. Kunkel went over the survey summary, a summary of community needs, action plan highlights, and next steps. The survey showed that the participants had an extremely varying age distribution and strongly agreed that parks/rec/open space is important and should be protected, and visit parks multiple times per week. The community needs suggested that the recreational resources and programs should reflect the needs of the increasing population of children, seniors, and those living alone and the large population of active adults. The action plan highlighted six goals including protection, maintaining, and improving access to public open space. The next steps will include incorporating feedback from the State, incorporating comments from Town departments, and obtaining support letters from the Planning Board, NP&EDC, and Select Board. The conditional approval from the state allows participation in DCS grant rounds through 2029.

Presentation – MHC, Nantucket Historic Survey Plan, Holly Backus, Preservation Planner

Holly Backus, the Town's Preservation Planner provided the Commission with an update on the FY21 MHC Certified Local Government Survey and Planning Grant Project. Ms. Backus explained the background of CLG, stating that Nantucket is the 27th community in the State to gain the designation. Becoming CLG makes the community eligible for grants and is a partnership between local, state and federal governments, where grants are issued directly from Congress, where 10% of federal funding must be allocated to CLG communities. The pilot survey includes the "Fish Lots" and the existing HDC surveys are being updated and integrated to GIS. The Island-wide Historic Survey Plan will be the "tool-box" on how to update moving forward. Additionally, there is a detailed neighborhood description for all areas that includes threats, priorities, and recommendations.

Commissioners and Director Vorce praised Ms. Backus' efforts and passion towards Historic Preservation.

Transportation Program Manager Update

Patrick Reed, Transportation Program Manager updated the Commission on various ongoing projects.

Milestone Road- MassDOT is in the process of moving this forward and is having internal meetings discussing a project timeline and design.

Wauwinet Path- the FHWA's latest grant will move design services forward, anticipating public outreach in the spring/summer but may be pushed back slightly. Mr. Reed stated that there has been vocal support and opposition to this project, he also clarified that the Federal Aid process will require submission of different options and that there is not the potential to allocate funding awarded to a different project. This particular grant is project specific.

Tom Nevers Path – Weston & Sampson is working on developing the design.

Orange Street Non Motorist Improvement Project – VHB is in the process for developing a contract for new design services and a Federal grant program may be applied for.

Surfside Area Roadway- project will include water main work, paving, and multipath improvements. There has been feedback regarding speed potentials on Lovers Lane and ways to lower speed will be incorporated into the design.

Seth Engelbourg stated that in reference to the Wauwinet Path, many of the islands other paths terminate at a beach without facilities and that there are existing safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians on Wauwinet Road and that natural resources will be protected as required, that the creation of the path is a public benefit.

Barry Rector expressed agreement with Mr. Engelbourg and asked whether this topic would be before a public hearing at any point. Mr. Reed explained that the project is currently before the Capital Program Committee and would follow a design process through the MOA which details public involvement. Director Vorce stated that changes to the right-of-way will involve public hearings for both accepting easements and for the final layout and drew comparison to the process for the Polpis bike path.

Nat Lowell expressed concerns for the existing condition of Wauwinet Road, as it's narrow and unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists and thanked Mr. Reed for moving the initiative forward.

Joseph Topham echoed the support given by the other Commissioners and suggested that the Wauwinet Association should poll the neighborhood for consensus instead of submitting individualized arguments/opposition.

Dave Iverson also echoed the support given by the other Commissioners and that the Wauwinet Association should look at the greater good the path will provide.

Discussion – NP&EDC Mission

Director Vorce discussed comments looking at the Cape Cod Commission and Martha's Vineyard Commission to see what could be learned from our neighboring communities. The two things that are represented in Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard are they used Planning and Economic Development Commission in 1965 when they were formed. Mr. Vorce reminded that Commission that the Cape and Vineyard are the only RPAs in the state that have regulatory authority. The other commission's acts are longer with more detail and talk more specifically about values and outlines hiring and staffing while referencing their respective counties.

Wendy Hudson stated that the language is interesting that it emphasizes a social component and that she's viewed economic development as smart growth and encouraging independent businesses, meaning that economic development shapes the way growth happens vs focused only on growth and physical development.

Chair Longacre echoed Ms. Hudson's comments.

Barry Rector suggested we look at what opportunities should be abandoned and what opportunities should be strengthened.

Other Committee Updates/Reports

None

Other Business

- Upcoming meeting date:
 - Monday, January 23, 2023 at 5pm via Zoom

Barry Rector praised the PLUS staff and management.

Adjournment

Barry Rector moved to adjourn the December 19, 2022 NP&EDC meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Seth Engelbourg, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm

Minutes submitted by:
Megan Trudel